

M-18-11-5

John Wesley Dorsey House (Site)

Boyds

Private

Early 1900's

This small, one story frame house consisted of only one room downstairs and a small shed attached to the back length. According to local informants, the building served as a cobbler's shop for the occupant as well as his dwelling. He lived alone. He was one of the few Black cobblers in the area.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi #
M: 18-11-5

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wes Dorsey House (Site)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side of White Grounds Road

CITY, TOWN

Boys

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Md.

COUNTY
Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Forest

NAME John Wesley Dorsey and Phoebe Dorsey Telephone #: Not listed

STREET & NUMBER

22629 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md. 20734

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 320

Folio #: 252

STREET & NUMBER

Montgomery County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville,

Md. STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M.18-11-5

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☒ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although this house is no longer standing, oral informants from the White Grounds recall that it was a small frame house, consisting of only one room downstairs, with a smaller shed **attached** to the back length. According to these informants, Dorsey a was a cobbler and mended shoes here.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:18-11-5

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Black history	
				Local history	

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown, probably late 1800's, early 1900's. BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Wesley Dorsey purchased this small tract of 0.5 acres in 1922 from Cora L. Pollock, and other Pollock heirs (deed, 320/252). The Pollocks had received the land from the Shorb family in 1909 (deed, 218/166). Three years earlier, they had purchased the land from the DeLauder family, who owned considerable property in the White Grounds community (deed, 188/238). The DeLauders in turn had bought the land from the Grace B. Leapley and G Frank P. Leapley in 1887 (deed, 1A 9/195). By this time, the holding had become 61 acres. Thus, the tracts in White Grounds had become increasingly smaller over time, as Black settlers moved into the area, buying up smaller parcels from the larger ones.

According to local tradition, Dorsey was a cobbler and made and mended shoes at the little house where he lived. Most of his work, they remember, consisted of mending shoes since by this time the families purchased their shoes from the larger stores or mail order stores rather than from the local cobbler.

The site illustrates the presence of artisans' shops in many small communities throughout Maryland before the growth of large retail stores, which have now replaced them.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
 Deeds: 320/252; 218/166; 188/238; JA 9/195.
 Oral interviews with Clara Talley, Dorothy Curtis, and Betty
 Hawkins; White Grounds Community, Turnertown, and Blocktown
 by George McDaniel, April - May, 1979. Not taped.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historical Sites Surveyor

Wesley Stubbs,
Research Ass't

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

March, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson, Md.

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

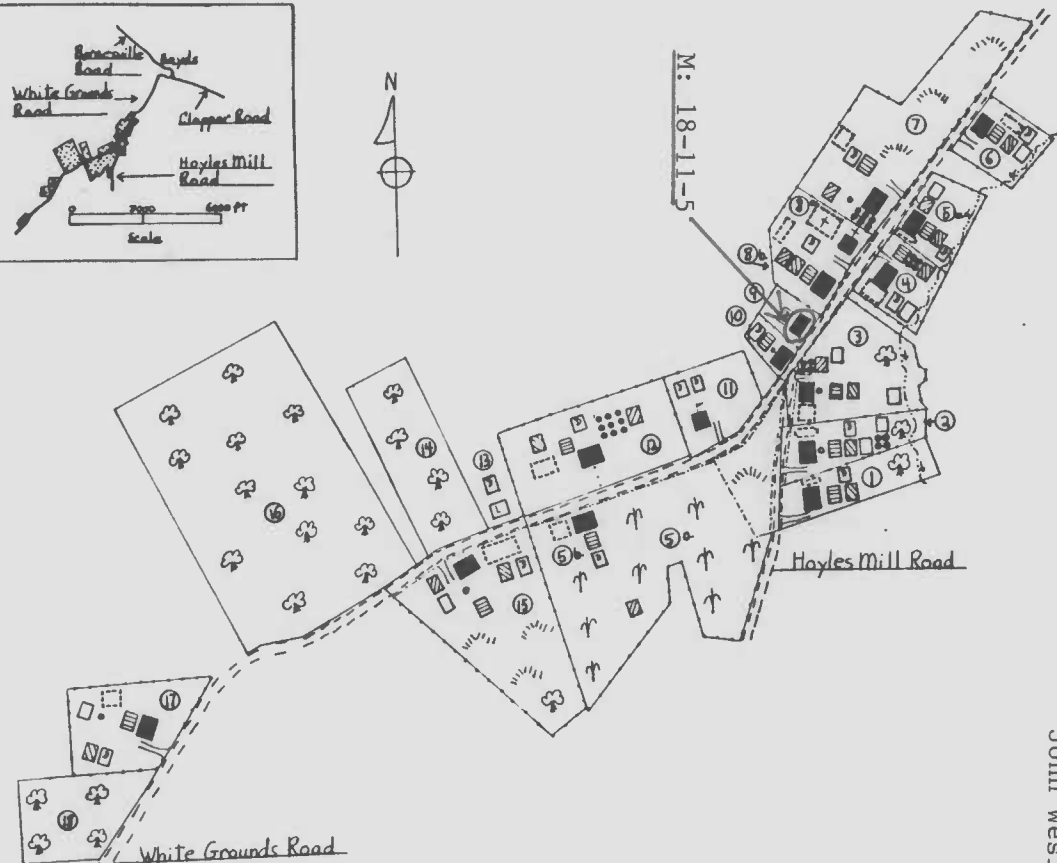
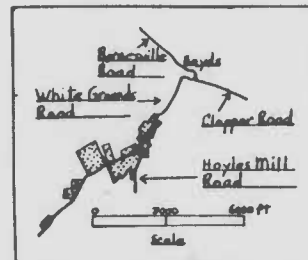
CURB	+
CEMETERY	+
LONG	L
COMMUNITY CENTER	C
STORE	S
POST OFFICE	P
SCHOOL	S
WELLING	W
PRIVY	P
STABLE	S
WATER HOUSE	W
WIND HOUSE	W
WAX HOUSE	W
CORN/FEED HOUSE	F
BIG PEN	B
BARN	B
PASTURE	P
CORN FIELD	C
WAX FIELD	W
ORCHARD	O
FOREST	F
THICKET	T
WELL	W
SPRING	S
STREAM	S
ROAD	R
PARCEL BOUNDARY	---
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	---
FENCE	---
DIRT ROAD	---
LAKE	L
PATH	P
STREAM FLOW	→

WELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

Key

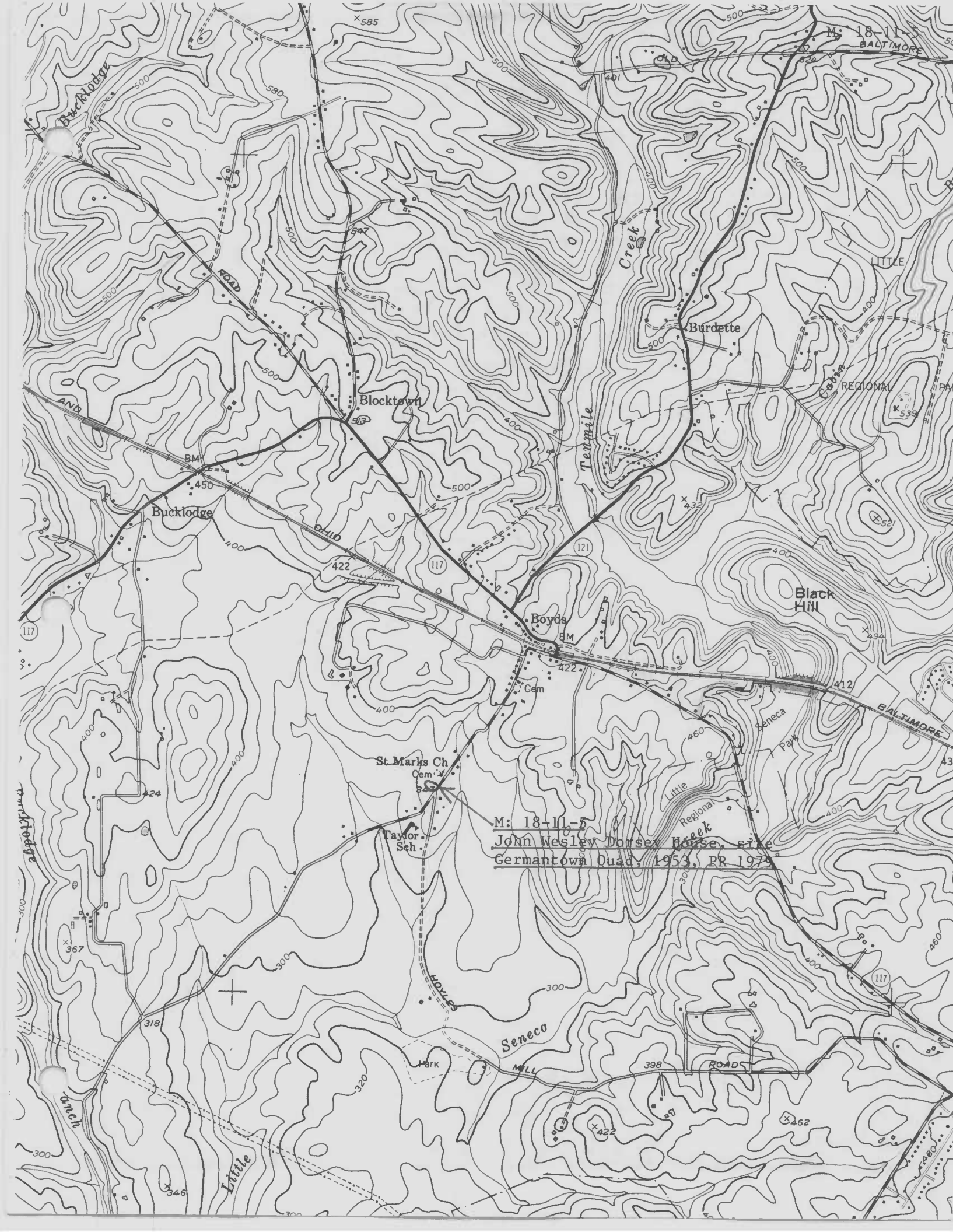
1. MARTHA CARTER HSTD. 1.00 AC.
2. WILLIAM LUCKETT HSTD. 2.00 AC.
3. WILLIAM GIBBS HSTD. 3.00 AC.
4. DUFFIN-HEERON HSTD. 1.00 AC.
- 5a. ADDISON DUFFIN HSTD. 25.00 AC.
- b. RENTED HOUSE
- c. FARM FIELD
6. DIGGINS HSTD. 0.50 AC.
7. JACOB RUBLE HSTD. (white) 5.00 AC.
- 8a. ST. MARK'S M.E. CHURCH 2.00 AC.
- b. ST. MARK'S PARSONAGE
9. JOHN DORSEY HSTD. 0.50 AC.
10. BLANCHE WILLIAMS HSTD. 0.50 AC.
11. BOYDS NEGRO SCHOOL 1.52 AC.
12. JOHN BROWN HSTD. 5.00 AC.
13. ODD FELLOW'S LODGE
14. GEORGE DAVIS HSTD. 6.00 AC.
15. GEORGE HAWKINS HSTD. 7.00 AC.
16. JAMES WILLIAMS PROP. (white) 56.00 AC.
17. JOHN PARKER HSTD. 5.00 AC.
18. TIMOTHY CAYON PROP. 5.00 AC.
19. JOSHUA DUFFIN HSTD. 2.00 AC.
20. NATHAN DUFFIN HSTD. 1.00 AC.



WHITE GROUNDS COMMUNITY, c. 1900-1925

Source
Steven Dealittle
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

Oral Informants
Agnes Coates
Mae Coates
Clara Talley



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John Wesley Dorsey House site
Germantown Quad, 1953, PR 1973